

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER SESSION, 1801. 89

* By the senate, December 17, 1801: Read the second time and will pass with the proposed amendment.

" By order,

J. B. DUCKETT, clk."

Which amendment was read the first and second time, agreed to, and the bill ordered to be engrossed.

The bill relating to the public roads in the several counties therein mentioned, and the following message:

By THE SENATE, DECEMBER 19, 1801.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,

WE have received your message of the 14th instant, respecting the bill relating to the public roads in the several counties therein mentioned, and in compliance with your request have reconsidered the amendment proposed by this house. It appears from your message that the amendment was misunderstood. The clause prohibiting the levy court from appointing a person more than once in three years was not proposed to be struck out; we deem it a useful restriction, and one that ought to be retained. We are at a loss to comprehend how it can be essential to effectuate the object of a road law, that persons of a certain description, however dignified their stations, should be exempted from an equal share of those duties imposed on our citizens for the accomplishment of this law, nor can we agree that those proposed to be exempted would be more degraded by a compulsory than a voluntary performance of the drudgery imposed on an overseer of the road.

It does not appear to us to be an abuse of the characteristic principles of a republican government, that those who equally obtain the benefits should mutually bear the burthens imposed by equal laws. A disposition to preserve those principles inviolate was the cause of our amendment, and now compels us to adhere to it.

Permit us to remark, that there is a variety of characters to whom it would be extremely inconvenient to perform the duties of an overseer of the roads as well as those you wished to exempt.

The labouring man, whose family depends on his daily exertions, has an equal claim with the clergyman, the members of the legislature, justices of the peace, the attorney, &c. to be exempted; but when it is recollected that the latter description of characters are generally men in easy circumstances, that they can be chosen but once in three years, and that they may relieve themselves from that service by the payment of a trifling sum, including them in the law cannot with propriety be complained of.

By order,

J. B. DUCKETT, clk.

Which was read, the amendment therein mentioned agreed to, and the bill ordered to be engrossed.

The supplement to the act, entitled, An act to provide for the appointment of commissioners for the regulation and improvement of Cambridge, in Dorchester county, and to establish and regulate a market in said town, endorsed; " By the senate, December 11, 1801: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

" By order,

J. B. DUCKETT, clk.

" By the senate, December 18, 1801: Read the second time and will pass with the proposed amendments.

" By order,

J. B. DUCKETT, clk."

Which amendments were read.

And the bill for the relief of Henry Troup, endorsed; " By the senate, December 11, 1801: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

" By order,

J. B. DUCKETT, clk.

* By the senate, December 18, 1801: Read the second time and will not pass.

" By order,

J. B. DUCKETT, clk."

The house adjourns till Monday morning 9 o'clock.

M O N D A Y, December 21, 1801.

THE house met. Present the same members as on Saturday, except Mr. Chapman. The proceedings of Saturday were read.

The bill declaring a certain road in Kent county a public highway, was sent to the senate by the clerk.

Petitions from Charles Baker, of Caroline county, John Cox, of Baltimore county, and John L. Briscoe, of Saint-Mary's county, praying acts of insolvency, were preferred, read, and referred to the committee appointed on petitions of a similar nature.

The amendment to the further additional supplement to an act, entitled, An act to straighten and amend the several public roads in several counties, and for other purposes therein mentioned, was read the second time, agreed to, and the bill ordered to be engrossed,

ORDERED, That the bill relating to the appointment of justices of the levy courts, justices of the orphan courts, commissioners of the tax and supervisors of the public roads, and to restrict the same, in the several counties of this state, be referred to the next session of assembly.

The report on the petition of Charles Mankin was read the second time, and the resolution therein contained rejected.

A petition from John Leef and Thomas Ritter, of Baltimore county, praying confirmation of their title to certain real property purchased of an alien, was preferred, read, and referred to Mr. Moore, Mr. Stanbury and Mr. Lemmon, to consider and report thereon.